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high priests, and doughty warriors are shown in contrast to common men and women and prisoners—a contrast heightened, somewhat as in archaic Greece, by differences in size and working out.

The great fault with Mayan art is over-elaboration of dress; the figure is lost in symbols and apparel. Archaic Greek art developed into the showing of the human form with drapery as an accessory, and thus reached the highest; archaic America went the other way, and failed. One welcomes the rare, occasional approaches to the nude as seen in the statue from Budsilhá (p. 92), the statue of Ketsalkoatl from Yāxchilan (p. 161), and the head from San Lorenzo (p. 206).

There are a few slips—surprisingly few—such as the placing of Cháncala on the map to the north of the Cháncala River, and in the text (p. 14) to the south of it; again, the text (p. 24) reads that the expedition moved south or southeast, whereas it must have moved southwest. Outside of these the book is wonderfully composed, translated, and printed. The style is perfection; far from dry, it contains all the archæological data obtainable. The translators, Miss Wesselhoeft and Miss Parker, deserve praise for the elimination of German abstruseness. The eighty photographic plates are beautifully done, and are absolutely indispensable to the understanding of the text. Made with a loving taking of pains, in the most favorable sunlight or at night by magnesium light by Herr Maler, they will appeal to all who have ever taken camera or excavations in hand. Equally important are the maps, which, outside of the twisting of the points of the compass in that of Yāxchilan, are admirably clear, complete, and precise. C. P.

The Weather and Practical Methods of Forecasting It, by E. B. Dunn.
8vo, pp. viii + 356. New York, Dodd, Mead & Company, 1902.

The author of *The Weather* is already quite well known as the former Local Forecast Official of the United States Weather Bureau in New York. In this book Mr. Dunn has, as he says in his preface, “aimed to avoid all mathematical and scientific and technical terms, and to present the subject in the simplest and most popular form”; there is general, but brief, discussion of most of the subjects treated in the text-books of meteorology, and considerable attention is paid to rules for forecasting coming weather changes, both with and without the use of the daily weather map. A chapter on Climate is chiefly concerned with the question of climate in relation to diseases of the respiratory system.

It is unfortunate that a book on a subject of so great popular

interest, by a writer whose official position brought him into such prominence, should be so incomplete and so inaccurate. In the discussion of even the ordinary meteorological phenomena and processes there are frequent statements which are wholly in error, and which recall the mistakes so commonly made in the past when meteorology was in its infancy. Thus, for example, to take one striking case, the author says regarding the snow-line (page 90): *The snow limit, as observed in the mountains, is where the highest temperature of the year never sinks below 32°.* Exactly what is meant by that sentence is not perfectly clear to us. What we suppose Mr. Dunn to mean is that the snow-line is defined by the altitude at which the maximum temperature is never above freezing. This is an entirely erroneous view. The first stage in the development of the conception of the snow-line, from Bouguer to de Saussure, was dominated by the idea that snow-line and frost-line (*i. e.*, the mean annual temperature of freezing) are identical. Bouguer believed that the climatic snow-line coincides with the isothermal surface of 32°. Humboldt and Buch substituted for the mean *annual* isothermal surface of freezing the mean *summer* temperature of 32°. Alexander von Humboldt first recognized the real complexity of the problem of the snow-line in its relation to temperature, and it is now known that mean temperatures or maximum temperatures are not the only factors which control the height of the snow-line. The amount of the precipitation, and especially the amount of the winter precipitation, as snow; exposure to sunshine and to warm and dry winds; the steepness of the slopes, and the height to which the mountains rise above the region of snowfall, are all important controls. Thus it has come about that the height of the snow-line is no longer believed to be a function of the temperature alone, and to make such statements as that just quoted is simply to continue an error of many years ago.

A large number of no less great inaccuracies might be referred to; for example, the statement (pages 2 and 3) that "there is a constant circulation of air flowing from the equator towards the poles in the upper atmosphere and a counter-current which flows from the poles along the surface of the earth towards the equator." There is, however, no need to multiply these examples. *The Weather*, although the subject is popular, the book attractive in appearance, and the writer pretty generally known, because of the many serious inaccuracies which it contains can be recommended neither to the general public nor to teachers and students of meteorology.

R. DE C. W.